

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE GUARD

PRETORIA FOR RSO, BEIRUT FOR RMO, ADDIS ABABA FOR RSS

REFERENCE: TANANARIVE 0018

1. SMALLEST MARINE DETACHMENT POSSIBLE WOULD BE A FIVE (5) MAN COMPLEMENT, I.E., AN NCOIC AND FOUR (4) WATCHSTANDERS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE WATCHSTANDERS FOR NIGHT, AND WEEKEND, AND HOLIDAY COVERAGE. HOWEVER, IT IS DESIREABLE TO PLAN ON SIX (6) MAN COMPLEMENT IN ORDER PROVIDE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR U.S. PRESENCE.

2. COMMITMENT OF MARINE GUARDS WITH A TARGET DATE OF MAY 1, 1974 NOW FEASIBLE, PROVIDED EMBASSY FINDS THIS TIMING FEASIBLE.

3- BEFORE MARINE'S ACTUALLY ASSIGNED BOTH RSO AND MARINE OFFICER SHOULD COORDINATE VISIT TO POST TO ASSIST IN PREPARATIONS, I.E., GUARD ORDERS, INSTRUCTIONS, PROCEDURES
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AND ADVICE ON CONSOLIDATED QUARTERS FOR WATCHSTANDERS

AND HOUSING FOR ACCOMPANIED NCOIC. FOR THIS PURPOSE RSO AS WELL AS DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE NOTIFIED WHEN EMBASSY READY TO PROCEED.

4. FINALLY ANY APPROACH TO MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE FRANK STATEMENT THAT MARINES ARE USED AT OUR EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT WORLD TO PROVIDE INTERNAL SECURITY OF OUR EMBASSIES AND THAT MARINES WEAR STANDARD MARINE CORPS UNIFORM AND SIDEARM ON DUTY WITHIN EMBASSY PREMISES. RUSH

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